

Successful Recovery Voices Count! Strategies

Voter Registration

Across the country recovery community organizations have registered voters at Recovery Month and Rally for Recovery! events. In addition,

1. In Cincinnati, Ohio Prospect House incorporated voter registration into their intake process.
2. In San Francisco, voter registration has been most successful at day-long street fairs, where NCADA reached out to family members and friends of recovery with their engaging booths and recovery materials. NCADA also registered voters at metro stations.
3. In Kentucky, People Advocating Recovery held a town hall meeting that focused on restoration of voting rights and a discussion of the Recovery Bill of Rights. Panelists included local judges and assistance chief of police. 50 voters were registered and the Lexington, KY Herald covered the meeting.
4. In Massachusetts, Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR) included voter registration at their Motorcycle Ride for Recovery. You can watch the ride here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBBGjasGL-g>.

Voter Education

1. Friends of Recovery-Vermont organized a Gubernatorial Candidates Town Hall Meeting at the Turning Point Recovery Center in Burlington, VT
- 2/ Ohio Citizen Advocates (OCA) produced a Voter's Guide that was printed full-color and web-based and widely distributed via email. The guide included a full-page copy of The Recovery Bill of Rights in addition to voter education information. OCA also hosted a toolkit on its website with voter and candidate information. Ohio's Department of Corrections agreed to include OCA's pamphlet and voter registration for any inmate reentering the community who was focusing on a substance abuse problem as an inmate. 700 packages and voter registration forms were sent out and from now on, people reentering the community will receive this information thanks to OCA's Recovery Voices Count project.
2. In Richmond, VA, the McShin Foundation held a Town Hall meeting at the Richmond Times Dispatch building. The Recovery Bill of Rights was introduced to the community as part of a presentation on how to help people who have been incarcerated as they prepare to reenter society. A Richmond City Councilwoman also attended and spoke about her family's personal experiences.
3. The Missouri Recovery Network developed a website guide with the names of candidates, responses to Faces & Voices 5 questions for candidates, and a list of candidates who signed the pledge. The website guide included information on voter eligibility and registration.
4. In Illinois, a number of Rally for Recovery! activities included voter registration and education activities. In Springfield a rally and speaking program in front of the State Capitol was followed by a march down the main street and into a park where festivities

continued with live music and civic engagement opportunities. In Chicago recovery advocates partnered with elected officials for a march around the west side of Chicago, followed by a rally where hundreds of people took part in voter registration activities, pledging to vote and endorsing the Recovery Bill of Rights.

5. NCADD-New Jersey produced a new edition of their Voter Guide Decision in 2008 and 2010 that is distributed at annual events. The guide is distributed through email links to a 3000 person action alert, and sent out to 11,000 people through an electronic e-communications link.

6. In Connecticut, Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) held Town Hall meetings. At one in Meriden, CCAR members and other residents asked elected officials about their positions on key issues.

Voter Participation (Get Out The Vote)

1. In Kentucky, a voter mobilization phone bank in Lexington was staffed by an incredible 35 former felons who came from Lexington, Georgetown, and Nicholasville. Together, they called over 700 people who have signed postcards to restore voting rights to former felons who have served their debt to society. Singing for Democracy gospel concerts organized by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and supported by People Advocating Recovery, mobilized voters to go to the polls.

2. In 2008, students at the University of Texas in Austin did Get-Out-the Vote for the first time on campus and held their first Rally for Recovery! Students Evan Luther and Keith Diaz made a documentary film about their experiences that can be seen on the Faces & Voices web site.

3. In South Carolina, all five chapters of FAVOR – South Carolina planned **Rally for Recovery** events which incorporated Recovery Voices Count as their main theme. Advocacy Action areas at each of the rallies provided places for participants to register to vote and endorse the Recovery Bill of Rights. In Greenville, South Carolina they used the celebrity status of folk singer Livingston Taylor to attract members of the community to their rally.

Recovery Voices Count has also helped build new relationships between the recovery community and other organizations and constituencies. Some of the partnerships included the League of Women Voters; Medical University of South Carolina (FAVOR South Carolina); Temple University and Drexel students (PRO-ACT); and (Shelbyville, KY) Christians United Against Drugs (People Advocating Recovery).